



What is KaBOOM!

KaBOOM! is the nation's premiere national non-profit organization dedicated to bringing play back into the lives of children.

What do we do? We facilitate building innovative, kid-inspired playspaces using a community-build model in partnership with corporations, foundations and private donors. We create platforms and opportunities for the collaborative sharing and continual improvement of knowledge and tools needed for anyone to build playgrounds on their own. We are advocates of the importance for each child to have a safe and engaging place, as well as the time, to play – knowing that this experience makes children happier, fitter, smarter and more socially adept and creative in the here and now and in the future.



Why do we do it? Our work is inspired by the fact that play is on the decline throughout America. Not enough playspaces are being built. Those that do exist are often in disrepair. Many playgrounds fail to challenge both a child's imagination and body. Recess is being removed from our nation's schools. Parents keep their children at home out of concern for their safety or run them from adult-supervised lesson to adult-coached game. More and more kids choose to stay indoors, lulled by television and video games. Many of our urgent problems, from the epidemic of childhood obesity to poor school performance, can be addressed through play. Playspaces are where kids learn to run, jump and swing. But they also learn how to negotiate and to respect one another.

How do we do it? We work to promote play in a myriad of ways. We've built more than 1,300 new playgrounds, skateparks, sports fields and ice rinks across North America since 1995. We offer award-winning, hands-on regional and national trainings. We host a highly-collaborative online community. We champion the KaBOOM! National Campaign for Play, which includes Playful City USA and Playmakers – a national network of individual advocates for play.

Just a few of our methods:

